

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-23 are currently pending in the application. Claims 12 and 24 are canceled. Claims 1 and 13 are amended herein. The amendments find support in the specification and claims as originally filed, particularly in claims 12 and 24, in Fig. 2, and in the specification in paragraph 0023. No new matter is added.

THE REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6-7 and 18-19 were rejected for lack of antecedent basis. These claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection on this basis be reconsidered and withdrawn.

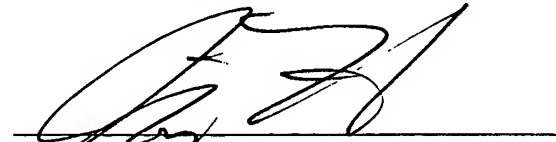
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1-11 and 13-23 as anticipated by the Sano references (Japanese patent publication nos. 2001286868 and 2000246249). The action misreads these references and incorrectly concludes that they disclose plates with striped projections and depressions, where the holes occur in the striped depressions (paragraph 0023; FIG. 2 of application). The Sano references make no disclosure or suggestion of the use of any plates having such striped projections or depressions.

Where the references do not disclose such depressions and projections, they cannot be considered as anticipating any of applicant's amended claims, all of which include limitations directed to plates having such striped projections and depressions. Reconsidered and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-1721, Reference No.: B0020/7000.

Respectfully submitted,



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